

has evidently been taken from one of the temples destroyed during the first Mahomedan invasion.

The most remarkable features are the heads, and festoons (hanging from their mouths), which is one of many instances I have seen of Hindú ornaments, apparently of Grecian origin, which I shall remark upon more particularly at some future period. M. K.

ART. VI.—*Note by Messrs. Jessop & Co. of Calcutta, on the smelting of the Iron Ore of the district of Burdwan.*

*To the Officiating Secretary Asiatic Society.*

DEAR SIR,—The Iron Ore with which we made the experiment in smelting, was a portion of that obtained by the Coal and Iron Committee from the district of Burdwan. We smelted above half a ton of it, which yielded about 2 cwt. of Iron, or barely 20 per cent.; it would therefore be considered an Ore of little value by the Iron masters in Great Britain.

The operation was carried on exactly according to the practice of the large blast furnaces in England;—owing however to some peculiarity in the nature of the metal it could not be brought into a fluid state, but after its reduction from the Ore, lay in a mass at the bottom of the furnace.

We were not prepared for such a result, and as we had no means of extracting the metal, we were compelled to discontinue the experiment, when the *hearth* had become full, instead of carrying it on for a day or two, or until the whole of the Ore we had at our disposal was consumed.

We have no doubt that if we could have submitted the Iron, as it lay in the furnace to the process of *puddling*, it would have been converted into an excellent malleable Iron, similar to that made by the natives in various parts of India, by whom the metal is never brought into a fluid state.—It would be interesting to ascertain whether the same difficulty, viz. the non-fluidity of the metal, was not experienced at the Porto Novo works; we have some reason to think that it was the case.

We consider it very probable, however, that after repeated experiments, conducted by persons experienced in the business, a method of treating the Ore might be discovered, by which the Iron would be obtained in a fluid state, so as to be available for the purposes of a foundry.

We have the pleasure to send you samples of the Ore before and after *calcination*, also of the Iron produced, and of the Lime-stone used in the experiment.—The latter was procured by us from Sylhet and is of excellent quality.

We are, Sir, &c. &c.

20th Sept. 1839.

JESSOP & CO.

P. S.—The following are the quantities of the materials expended ;—Ore 1220 lbs. Coke 1278 lbs. Lime-stone 744 lbs.—The experiment occupied about twenty-three hours.

ART. VII.—*Note on the habits of the Coel, and on the discovery of Isinglass.*—By MAJOR DAVIDSON.

*To the Secretary to the Asiatic Society.*

SIR,—Happening to stand in the veranda of my bungalow, a few days ago, I heard a loud chattering noise on the lawn; believing that a young crow had fallen from its nest I advanced to put it out of the reach of harm. Instead of a crow I was much astonished to find that an old crow was feeding a young bird of a dark brown colour, transversely striped with cinereous bars. On asking its name of a native who also saw it, he replied that it was a young Coel. I approached it within a few yards and saw it receive food from the crow's bill, in the usual supplicating posture, with extended wings, and body slightly quivering. The native informed me that the Coel never made a nest, but always took possession of that of a crow, by whose incubation, its eggs were hatched; and also, that the crow invariably continued to feed its adopted nestling, until it could shift for itself. From having seen this I can have no doubt of its truth. A few days ago the neighbouring mango topes, resounded with the plaintive notes of the Coel, but at present they are not to be heard from which I am inclined to believe, that like the Cuckoo it is a bird of passage. It is a curious coincidence that they should both rear their young by practising a similar imposition on other birds. Is this common to the genus?

Observing in your 87th number that Mr. M'Clelland states, that "The very valuable production, *Isinglass*, has been recently found "to be yielded by one of the fishes of the Hoogly."

I beg to mention that on the 18th of June, 1820, while residing at Sooltanpoor, Oude, in a bungalow on the banks of the Goomty, I addressed a letter to that eminent naturalist the late Major General Hardwicke, acquainting him that I was in the habit of opening every